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Big Horn strikes Hungry Horse power deal with BPA

Bonneville Power Administration
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: [Ken Hustad](#),
BPA, 509-358-7401 or
[Crystal Ball](#), BPA, 503-230-5133

HARDIN, Mont. — Residents of Big Horn County can count on reliable, low-cost, electric power from Montana's Hungry Horse Dam through 2017, thanks to a new contract Big Horn County Electric Cooperative recently signed with the Bonneville Power Administration.

"This is a good move for Big Horn," said utility manager Tim Gregori. "As Montana electric markets open to restructuring, the consumers we serve will have access to power generated in Montana from our own renewable Rocky Mountain waters at stable, competitive prices," Gregori said.

The contract provides a long-term supply of federal power from Montana's Hungry Horse Reservation to Big Horn consumers. When Congress authorized the construction of Hungry Horse dam in 1944, it established the reservation which gives geographical preference to Montana electric consumers.

"This is the first time that the Hungry Horse Reservation has been made available to eastern Montana due to pre-existing contracts with other Montana utilities and electric transmission constraints," said BPA senior account executive Ken Hustad. "We are extremely pleased to bring the benefits of the federal hydrosystem to Big Horn's consumers.

Hustad said revenues BPA receives from this sale will generate public benefits in the Northwest and help repay the mortgage on Hungry Horse and other Northwest federal dams to the U.S. Treasury. The primary purpose of the federal hydrosystem is to provide low-cost power to rural and domestic consumers. Hungry Horse Dam lies on the South Fork of the Flathead River, near Kalispell, not far from Glacier National Park.

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